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August 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrators of Habilitation Centers for the Intellectually Disabled or Persons with Related Conditions (15 Beds or Less), and Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents

From: Gwen C. Thompson
Acting Director, Division of Health Licensing

Subject: Conditions Allowing a Provider-wide Exception to the Requirements of Regulation 61-13, Standards for Licensing Habilitation Centers for the Intellectually Disabled or Persons with Related, Section V(1)(e)(3); Regulation 61-103, Standards for Licensing Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents, Section Q(1)(C)(3).

NOTE: This memorandum replaces the memorandum dated November 12, 1999. Amendments were made to comply with Act No. 47 of 2011 and to reflect regulation revisions.

The sections in the regulations mentioned above for habilitation centers for the intellectually disabled (15 beds or less), and residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents require that the "Hot water supplied to the pot washing sink in the kitchen shall be supplied at one-hundred forty degrees (140 degrees F.)."

It has been determined that the hot water temperature level as currently required at the pot washing sink, in certain instances, may be excessively restrictive. In the interest of establishing reasonable standards which can be met by providers and yet do not compromise the health and well-being of patients cared for in the above facilities, it has been determined that alternative standards will be considered as acceptable.

All community residential care facilities, habilitation centers for the intellectually disabled (15 beds or less), and residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents will be required to meet the standard outlined in each facility's respective licensing standard, i.e., R61-13, Section V(1)(e)(3); R61-103, Section Q(1)(C)(3)., OR, as an alternative:

Hot water supplied to the kitchen equipment/utensil washing sink shall be supplied at 120 degrees F. provided all kitchen equipment/utensils are chemically sanitized.

These exceptions apply to any habilitation center for the intellectually disabled (15 beds or less), or residential treatment facility for children and adolescents licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call (803) 545-4370.

GCT/rms